

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1887.

## Church Music.

Whether it be congregational, or the product of a choir, church music ought to be thoroughly good. There is, we believe, no scriptural text which can be cited, to prove that spirituality is inconsistent with good singing. Yet it is true that most of the music performed in churches is poor. Not that people do not appreciate harmony, but it requires training, costs money and some good people do not like it. They say: "It is a shame for the unsanctified to sing in the churches. The praise of God should ascend from pious hearts. It is better for the choir to have clean characters than sweet voices," all of which we heartily endorse. The church should be kept free from slander. Its good name should be cherished. Yet its services should be made attractive, and worship should not be sacrificed to preaching.

Bare walls, uncomfortable seats ear-splitting music, are unpleasant adjuncts to the best sermon. With a poor one, they are simply intolerable.

To many, music is the most attractive form of preaching. Beautiful sentiments set to appropriate tunes, and chanted or sung by the human voice, appeal to mankind as no spoken word can.

Speaking of the Patti opera season a New York paper says: "The six representations will surely bring to Mr. Abbey \$68,000 and the receipts are likely to reach \$70,000." Such is humanity's tribute to the greatest singer of modern times. It is not unique. Jennie Lind had as successful a career for her day.

Concerts are more popular than lectures. People love to hear good singing. They will go where it is to be enjoyed; even to the house of God.

Music is a part of worship; and worship is the main element of a church service. We speak advisedly. They are not worshipping God, who read a sermon home. He is to be praised in the sanctuary by the congregation assembled, with instruments of music, with the song, and even with the dance. Listen, ye who doubt the propriety of music, to the words of David in the 150th Psalm:

"Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the psaltery and harp."

Praise him with the timbrel and dance, praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud symbols; praise him upon the high-sounding symbols.

Let every thing that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Does any one imagine that David would have hesitated to use the best instruments of music that Canaan could furnish? Would he have begrudged time or money to improve its quality? Did he not in fact arrange the courses of singers who were to chant his incomparable psalms? And is the Lord less worthy of praise now than in David's time? Here is evidently a field for improvement. The ministers are having a hard time to furnish intellectual pabulum twice each Sunday. It is hardly necessary. Souls may be saved; hearts may be uplifted; faith may be quickened; and the spirit of grace may descend, during the singing of a psalm as truly as when the sermon is pronounced, or the prayer offered. Nor need the cost be extravagant. Great talents are often dedicated to a pulpit service which is poorly rewarded. It is not unlikely that in every average congregation there is material, if properly cultivated, for a fair if not artistic rendering of church music. Why not see to it, that the singers are as fully instructed as the minister? The world, at least, will enjoy the services better, and Christ "came to call sinners, not the righteous, to repentance."

Dr. R. H. Ward, of Troy N. Y., Professor of Botany in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institution, well known to many of our people, has been delivering a lecture in various places on the subject of botanizing on the Channel Islands. In regard to this lecture the following is taken from Troy Daily Times:

"Dr. R. H. Ward, of Troy, scientific association, delivered the president's annual address, which was a practical and interesting talk on 'Botanizing on the Channel Islands.' The lecture, interwoven with amusing incidents of travel through Ireland, Wales, and the Islands, was not an abstract of scientific facts in relation to the class or species, or a minute analysis of the different parts of plants. It was a description of the character of plant life in the islands and surrounding country, showing by relating historical changes, why plants of a certain nature are found there. The lecture was illustrated by numerous well preserved specimens. The lecture concluded with an entertaining description of the

hardy and thorny furze, which is found in Great Britain in great abundance, the Jersey cabbage, figs, grapes and many plants which oddity makes interesting."

Might not some of Professor Ward's Bloomfield friends entice him down here?

Some friendly neighbor, living in Montclair, perhaps, has communicated the fact (?) to the Association of Editors of New Jersey, that the Bloomfield Citizen is "neutral" in politics, and the aforesaid Association has so designated THE CITIZEN in its catalogue of New Jersey newspapers. This piece of information will doubtless be as much of a surprise to our readers as it was to ourselves. We have been accused of many faults but of mugwumpery never till now. We would we knew the name of the mean slanderous wretch who thus endeavored to blacken our good name. However, we do the next best thing by thus publicly exposing this malicious falsehood and at the same time sending some sample editorials into certain quarters where we thought they might neutralize the effect of this poisonous article.

English as she is written:

"While viewing the wreck of a freight train on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, near Palatine, Ill., yesterday, a large water tank, possibly injured by the collision, gave way and buried the people near it under the wreckage and water. Two boys and four men were killed outright. Two other men were fatally and a number seriously injured."

The above, taken from the Evening Post, is another instance of the recklessness of corporations and their disregard of human life. What person other than a corporation would permit so susceptible a thing as a water tank to view a wreck, when it was a foregone conclusion that it would "give way?" But what better can one expect of a soulless being.

At the meeting of the Township Committee last week the resolution was introduced by the gas committee and unanimously carried to the effect that the town did not intend to pay for that which was not received, even though the bill were rendered by the great and good (save the mark) Montclair Gas and Water Company. An application was received at the same meeting from an electric light company relating to the introduction of electricity in the town. We do not know that these matters had any connection but the coincidence is certainly suggestive.

We are happy to note the very decided and most acceptable improvement in front of the German Seminary. It is to be hoped that there will be no backsliding and that there will be no weariness in well-doing in this instance.

## STATE ITEMS.

It is stated that the sum of \$23,000, which was recently stated to be the amount paid by the coal companies for deputies in maintaining their resolution not to give in to the strikers recently at Perth Amboy and South Amboy, was less than half of the real cost for deputy hire. Sheriff Convery said Tuesday at New Brunswick that it cost the Lehigh Coal Company \$23,000 alone, and the expenses of the Pennsylvania Company at South Amboy reached \$28,000. These payments were solely for deputies, and several additional thousands were expended for provisions for the armed force which stood guard over the docks for six weeks.

In accordance with a resolution passed by the late legislature providing for the arbitration of the dispute between the State and the Morris and Essex Railway Company over back taxes, Governor Green appointed ex-Judge Frederick W. Stevens, of Newark, to represent the State, and John F. Dillon, of New York, to represent the railroad company on the board of arbitration. The decision of these gentlemen will be final. Several thousands of dollars are involved.

The city of Salem is about to try the experiment of having no licensed liquor resorts, the council having almost unanimously resolved not to grant licenses for the sale of liquor to any body. Right on the top of this comes the intelligence from Bridgeton, which has been running on the prohibition plan for the past few years, that the non-granting of licenses has not had the desired good effect which its authors hoped it would.

In Belvidere, on Wednesday, at the election for School Trustees, the women of the town for the first time had the privilege of voting. The fair politicians held a number of caucuses and cast their first ballots for John Simerson. Mr. Simerson is the editor of the Warren Journal, besides being an eligible widower and a general favorite among the weaker sex. He was elected by a large majority.

In 1876, the firm of Janeway & Co., of New Brunswick, compromised with the creditors for seventy-five cents on the dollar. In 1881-2 and 3, they paid three-fourths of twenty-five cents with interest, and recently have paid the balance. The last payment was delayed by the losses by the burning of their large mill some two years ago. Such instances as this are rare in business circles.

The new ballot-box required by the law passed by the late Legislature is a bell-punch arrangement, and will, it is claimed, make fraud pretty nearly impossible.

Each county is required to purchase the necessary boxes by September next, and the cost will be \$15 each. Only one firm makes them, and the factory will be kept busy during the summer if the Governor approves of the bill.

The old frame Methodist Episcopal Church, at Main and Church streets, Hackensack, is to be replaced by a new stone building capable of seating 900. It will be of Gothic architecture and will cost \$41,000. The congregation is one of the strongest in the Newark Conference. Rev. A. D. F. Randolph, late of Newark, is the new pastor.

The Pennsylvania, Slatington and New England Railroad, which runs through Warren and Sussex counties, has been sold to W. W. Gibbs, of Philadelphia, for \$50,000. The purchase is said to be in the interests of the Standard Oil Company.

The large number of young men offering themselves as foreign missionaries in Princeton and other colleges has prompted Dr. McCosh to send out an appeal to the churches for means to send them out.

The Directors of the Belvidere Iron Mines have increased the wages of the men ten per cent, without having been asked to do so.

The Hudson County Freeholders stand: Democrats, 10; Republicans, 6; Labor, 4. Five of the candidates will ask a recount.

Nearly all the Freeholders' elections in Hudson county are to be contested on the ground of fraud.

## Amusements.

## MINER'S THEATRE.

Market Street, Newark.

H. C. MINER, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

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EVERY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MATINEE.

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Saturday Matinee—"MAGGIE THE MIDGET."

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NEXT WEEK,

Every Night and Wednesday and Saturday Matinee, "Grandest Star of the Season."

"THE NEW BLACK CROOK."

Prices as usual. Seats reserved without extra charge. Telephone Call 318.

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PRICES—All reserved—50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.50.

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The stables and cattle are kept in the most perfect manner as to cleanliness and Ventilation—a most important factor in healthy milk is desired. As a table article and beverage it recommends itself, showing a larger percentage of cream than any other Milk sold. For invalids and children it is recommended by all physicians.

MILK IN GLASS HAS THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES:

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4th. Its flavor is better, because the air has no chance to act upon it, and because it is absolutely free from the metallic flavor often noticed in milk transported in tin.

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We offer at 98c—Pongee Parasols, 16 rib, also 24-inch fine Mohair, Pongee Color, worth \$1.25 to \$1.50.

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